FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 AUGUST 1986

Israel-USSR

The termination of the Israeli-Soviet talks in Helsinki after one session 18 August was "not the original plan," Jerusalem radio reported, but sources in the Israeli delegation nevertheless stressed that the talks have not broken down. The two sides held a 90-minute debate during which the Soviets presented their request to send an 8-person delegation to Israel, while the Israelis called for the release of Soviet Jews. The Soviet representatives took note of and agreed to accept the Israeli document, but they said they were not authorized to answer Israel's request to send a delegation to Moscow, the radio disclosed. The Jerusalem radio report followed IDF radio's announcement that the talks were deadlocked and would not continue.

Sudan

Plane Downed in South — SUNA announced that "rebel forces" using a SAM-7 missile downed a civilian passenger plane 16 August that had taken off from Malakal with 57 persons on board. All passengers aboard the aircraft were killed, according to a statement by the Upper Nile military governor cited by the agency. Reacting to the incident, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi ordered the suspension of all air traffic to and from the south, Omdurman radio reported. The incident followed the SPLA's accusation, broadcast over its clandestine radio the previous day, that the Sudanese Government had conspired with Libya to use the food airlift as part of a "major offensive" against the movement. In response to this "military plan," the SPLA had called on its forces to shoot down aircraft of any type, including relief flights, that overfly SPLA-controlled airspace; ordered all SPLA forces into a state of "maximum alert," directing them to attack all major enemy garrisons and all unfriendly transportation; and canceled all leave. The measures taken by the SPLA, however, were not to be perceived as being directed against the Koka Dam negotiation process, the radio continued.

Al-Mahdi on Moscow Talks — The prime minister told a Khartoum press conference that his talks in the USSR aimed to revive Soviet-assisted projects in Sudan, Omdurman radio reported. His visit as a whole should be viewed as a "corrective" measure to achieve nonalignment, he added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian antiaircraft fire downed two Iraqi warplanes over Dezful 16 August, IRNA announced, citing a military communique. Iraqi aircraft struck two Iranian power stations in the area the same day, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The communique acknowledged the loss of one Iraqi aircraft due to a "technical failure."

In the Gulf, Iraqi warplanes hit a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast late 17 August, according to a military spokesman cited by INA. Tehran radio announced that a ship carrying chemicals was hit near the UAE coast earlier that day by a missile from an "unidentified aircraft." Manama sources cited by Kuwait radio announced that a Liberian tanker was hit by a rocket in the same area.

Elsewhere, the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense commander asserted that Iranian efforts to change and hide their oil and economic installations are well known thanks to Iraq's "special means," and that Iran's attempts to use Sirri Island as an oil export center will fail, INA reported. Meanwhile, a Tehran radio commentary said Iran has the right to act, pursue, and punish countries that allowed Iraq to use their facilities or airspace in the Sirri Island attack.

Iran

Car Bomb in Qom — A 16 August car bomb blast in Qom set by "U.S. agents" killed 11 people and wounded 100 more, Tehran radio reported, noting that the explosion damaged a number of buildings, including one of the city's mosques.

Travel Restriction Rumors — A Foreign Ministry official denied rumors that the international border will be sealed to prevent Iranians from traveling abroad, IRNA reported. The official blamed "opportunist elements" for the rumor, which is intended to encourage those Iranians enamored with the cultural values of the former regime to leave the country, the agency continued.

Pakistan

Karachi radio 15 August reported the arrest the previous day of around 100 people including People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto, stating that she violated the law by leading an illegal procession in the Karachi area. Bhutto's supporters in Sind province went on a "rampage" 15 August, according to AFP, and 8,000 supporters of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy demonstrated in Lahore the following day. Karachi radio announced that Sind was calm except for some "minor" incidents.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Cable to Ziaul Haq — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a cable to Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, appealing to him to end the "persecution" of Benazir Bhutto and her party, JANA reported.

Treaty With Italy Proposed — Libya has proposed signing a nonbelligerency and antiterrorism treaty with Italy, ANSA reported, citing a *La Repubblica* interview with the Libyan envoy to Rome.

PDRY

Djibouti Plane Intercepted — A PDRY Government source announced that a civilian aircraft en route from Sanaa to Djibouti entered a prohibited zone in PDRY airspace and was forced to land, Aden radio reported. After the pilot admitted his error, the flight was allowed to continue with all passengers and crew on board, the radio continued. Djibouti in turn severed all air and

sea links with the PDRY and delivered a protest note that termed the incident an "act of piracy," Djibouti radio reported. AFP revealed that an aide to former PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was on board, who stated that he was saved from arrest thanks to deception by the pilot and flight crew. The agency added that a delegation of 'Ali Nasir's supporters was to have been on the plane, but postponed its departure at the last minute.

Oppositionists on Trial — The trial of 48 former officials opened in the PDRY, according to a Paris-based representative of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad cited by AFP. Among the accused are five former members of the YSP Politburo, the spokesman added.

Syria

Western diplomatic sources in Damascus said they "recently" saw Soviet MiG-29's at a Syrian Air Force base, according to an article in the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* cited by QNA. The first group of MiG-29's arrived as part of an eventual complement of 80 aircraft under the terms of a Soviet-Syrian agreement, the report noted.

Lebanon

Nine people were injured by renewed artillery exchanges across the Muslim-Christian combat lines in the capital 17 August, Beirut radio reported, noting that the fighting erupted on the eve of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's planned contacts aimed at convening the government.

In an interview broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio 16 August, Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Samir Ja'ja' described the recent events in the Christian sector as a power struggle but emphasized that "there was no rebellion" and that "there was no conflict between the Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces." Asked about the possibility of a Syrian move into East Beirut, Ja'ja' asserted that the Syrians "cannot enter the east." He absolved the Syrians of responsibility for planning the events in the Christian sector but accused them of trying to exploit the situation by raising the issue of sending forces into East Beirut to restore order.

Jordan

King Husayn was "not pleased" with the results of his recent trip to Syria and Iraq, according to the UAE's *Al-Ittihad*, whose "reliable Jordanian sources" said the king's reconciliation efforts were blocked by a "wall of ideological differences."

Egypt

Restrictions were placed upon the entry of Tunisian air travelers, following an incident in which some Egyptians were turned away from Tunis airport, MENA announced.

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South Asia

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Further Reportage on SARC Ministerial Meeting

Meeting Ends; Termed Successful

BK141638 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 86

[Text] Heads of delegations of six South Asian countries, who attended the first meeting of the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] ministerial council, left Dhaka for home today. They are the foreign ministers of Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and the attorney general of the Maldives. Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, who is the chairman of the SARC Council of Ministers, was present at the airport to see them off.

The Bhutanese foreign minister, Mr Dawa Lyonpo Tsering, who left this morning, described the just-ended SARC Council of Ministers meeting as highly successful.

Before his departure, the Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, said the meeting was held in the Dhaka spirit, implying that the mood of cooperation among the SARC member states continued to persist since the summit last December.

The Indian minister for external affairs, Mr Shiv Shankar, told newsmen before his departure that it had been a fruitful meeting making its recommendations on complete unanimity.

The Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, said he is totally satisfied with the deliberations of the conference.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, said that the understanding and trust among South Asian leaders is fast growing and taking a permanent shape -- a sign that augured well for the future of the SARC.

The Maldives attorney general who led his country's delegation to the meeting said that his delegation is satisfied that the Dhaka meeting was a successful one.

Protest Lodged With Iran Over Assault of Envoy, Family

LD171726 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran was summoned this morning at 0900 to the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The contents of that ministry's note, dated 16 August 1986, were pointed out to him by the relevant department. During the middle of the night of 12 [words indistinct] 1985, (?Ziaddin) Wadad, DRA charge d'affaires in Tehran, while traveling with his family by train to the Soviet Union to carry out some official duties, and accompanied by an employee of the Afghan Embassy, Asadullah Karimzada, who was with him on the train between (?Zanjan) city and (?Meana) city, was attacked by five persons.

The attackers, who had their faces covered with masks, were speaking Persian fluently, and were definitely Iranian subjects. The attackers beat and (?verbally abused) both the charge d'affaires and the Afghan Embassy employee; and by firing 13 rounds from sidearms, threatened the family of the charge d'affaires.

The attackers took all their documents, including political passports, diplomatic credentials, and their identity cards, which were issued by Foreign Affairs Ministry of Iran. They also stole private jewelry and cash, which were with the charge d'affaires and his family. The total amount of stolen goods amounted to 5 million rials. After 50 minutes of beating and abuse, the terrorists detained Zaihuddin Wadad and the embassy employee in the toilet of the train, and they left the train at the (?Miana) city station.

The DRA Foreign Ministry strongly protests against this terrorist aciton, organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials, against the DRA charge d'affaires in Tehran and his family; and demands the speedy return by the terrorists of all the political passports, diplomatic credentials, and identity cards, along with the stolen money and goods, and that they be handed over to the authorities in the DRA Embassy in Tehran. The perpetrators of this inhuman, abovementioned deed, which is an act against international norms and standards and against the embassy's duties and mutual relations, should be dealt with according to the law.

According to the articles mentioned in the Vienna protocol on diplomatic relations, maintaining the security and safety of members and employees of political representatives and ensuring the successful accomplishment of the embassy's duties are important duties of the host country. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government should pay serious attention to the safety and security of the DRA representatives in Iran, members and employees and their properties, and should not allow this to happen again in the future.

Otherwise, this ministry believes that such irresponsible actions against DRA political representatives and employees in Iran, which are contrary to international norms and standards, will bring negative effects to the interstate relationship between both countries; and in that case, the responsibility for its unpleasant consequences will not rest with the DRA.

NEW TIMES Unveils Iran's 'Predatory Interests'

LD170706 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] Kabul, August 16, *Bakhtar* — The reactionary change in the power structure of Iran in the interest of landlords and capitalists turned the ruling circle of Iran into a fierce enemy of the DRA which firmly supports the just and anti-imperialist struggle of the people of Iran, says an article carried by the daily *Kabul New Times*.

The reactionary rulers of Iran on various occasions openly stated their common interest with world imperialism and reaction. The prime minister of Iran and Yaqub Khan, foreign minister of Pakistan on August 1984 declared with full accord: "Talks and exchange of ideas concerning the Afghanistan problems have special place in our relations... experience has shown that the two Muslim and neighbouring countries have to pursue a coordinated policy concerning Afghanistan. In dealing with Afghanistan problem the ultimate goal of Iran and Pakistan is the same".

Quoting *Keyhan* the daily *Kabul New Times* says: Likewise Khamene'i, president of Iran in his meeting with the prime minister of China stated: "We have common responsibility towards Afghanistan as our neighbour".

Rafsanjani, chairman of "Majilis" Iranian parliament, who is regarded as one of the ideologues of the reactionary regime in a meeting with the foreign minister of Turkey said: "The problems of Afghanistan also can be tackled in the framework of Iraq problem. The Arab countries, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan can develop more constructive cooperation in the interest of the region. Therefore, if an Islamic Government is established in Iraq the danger of Communism will be removed from the region".

It needs to be reiterated that the above mentioned realities are regarded as objective factors which have given an ever-increasing character to the hostility of the ruling circles of Iran against revolutionary Afghanistan, the daily adds.

Another factor, though independent to some extent, is the religious chauvinism based on the ideology of pan-Islamism. This chauvinism with its anti-progress and anti-Soviet characteristics has linked together the predatory interests of internal reaction of Iran with those of world imperialism first and foremost U.S. imperialism, the daily concluded.

Gandhi Departs for Andhra Pradesh; Flood Toll 95

BK180906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has left for Andhra Pradesh to make an aerial survey of the flood-affected districts. A spokesman of the state government told the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that he is arriving in Visakhapatnam this afternoon and from there he will proceed to the affected areas.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh irrigation minister, Mr K.E. Krishnamurthy, told newsmen that the extent of damage due to the floods is estimated to be 700 crore rupees. Five hundred km length of canal has been damaged. According to official sources, the death toll has gone up to 95. In all, 2,136 villages are affected. Crops in 12 lakh acres are under water; 1 lakh 30,000 houses have been completely damaged, another 28,000 partially damaged.

The Godavari is receding at Kotepalli and (Ragalli), and many towns in West Godavari are surrounded by flood waters. In east Godavari, the people residing in nearby canals have been asked to move to safer places.

Gandhi Urges U.S. To Outlaw Nuclear Weapons

BK161605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] The prime minister said that the United States should accept a mandatory international agreement to outlaw nuclear weapons. In an interview to a Bulgarian newspaper, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the Soviet Union has responded to the appeal issued by the 6-nation Mexico summit by announcing unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. Besides, it has extended the moratorium twice. We expect the United States to respond to the gesture, he said.

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR Deputy Chairman

Views Pakistani Nuclear Capability

BK161429 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 16 (AFP) — Suleyman Tatliyev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, expressed concern Saturday at reports that Pakistan was on the verge of acquiring a nuclear bomb, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said. Mr. Tatliyev said it was "a pity" that Pakistan was pursuing a nuclear weapons programme when its non-aligned colleagues were pressing for disarmament, PTI reported from Calcutta.

Pakistan is frequently suspected in Indian media reports of acquiring a nuclear bomb with Chinese help. Islamabad denies the reports, saying its nuclear programme is designed only to meet its energy requirements.

Mr. Taliyev was quoted as telling reporters in Calcutta that Pakistan was spending "huge money" on a nuclear bomb, ignoring several pressing economic and social problems.

The Soviet official arrived here last Thursday for a 10-day visit which is also to take him to Madras, Trivandrum and Bombay.

Further Reportage on Situation in New Delhi, Punjab

Home Minister's Residence Attacked

BK181019 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 18 (AFP) — Some 400 members of a right-wing Hindu-dominted party were arrested Monday after they tried to storm Home Minister Buta Singh's residence here, police said.

The marchers, belonging to the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, were protesting against an alleged government security lapse which led to the August 10 assassination of India's former army chief General Arun Sridhar Vaidya, a party spokesman said.

Riot police outnumbered the protesters about eight to one in the march on the residence of the home minister, who is a Sikh, eyewitnesses said.

India's top Black Cat commandoes stood on alert inside the residence boundary in central New Delhi as riot police tried to keep the protesters away. At least four policemen were injured in scuffles, area police chief Bhim Sein Basse said. It was not known if Mr. Singh was at home.

Gen. Vaidya's killing has been claimed by the Khalistan commando force, the sword-arm of Sikh separatists. Gen. Vaidya headed the Indian Army when it stormed Sikhism's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in 1984. Some 650 people were killed in the assault, according to official figures.

Antiterrorist Operations Stepped Up

BK171605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] In Punjab, the police and paramilitary forces have further stepped up their operation against terrorists. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, raids are being conducted on the suspected hideouts of the terrorists all over the state and patrolling in vulnerable areas have been intensified. Some suspected terrorists were arrested by the police from different parts of the state. They are being interrogated to ascertain their involvement in the terrorist activities.

The officials investigating the assassination of the former army chief, General A.S. Vaidya, have disclosed the suspects involved in the crime. The three suspects include Harjinder Singh alias Jinda, Sukhvinder Singh alias Sukhi, and Surinder Singh alias Bhola. A police spokesman in Pune told newsmen this evening that investigations have revealed reasonable grounds to suspect the involvement of these persons in the crime. Besides they are also wanted in connection with terrorist activities in Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, and Gujarat, and bank robberies in Bombay and Pune.

Akali Dal Group Leaders Detained

BK150911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Aug 86

[Text] In Chandigarh, 22 legislators, 3 MP's, and some senior leaders owing allegiance to the breakaway group of Akali Dal were, detained by the police this morning for violating prohibitory orders. According to an official spokesman, they wanted to go in a procession to the Punjab Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] to submit a memorandum in defiance of prohibitory orders enforced in the area.

Sikhs Arrested: Weapons Seized

BK161555 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 16 (AFP) — Twenty Sikhs were arrested in the Punjab late Friday and Saturday in a police and paramilitary crackdown on suspected Sikh separatists, reports said. The arrests came after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's pledge in an Independence Day speech Friday to wipe out Sikh militancy from the troubled northern state.

Thirteen Sikhs were reported held in Amritsar, four in Ferozepore and three in Gurdaspur. All the three districts border Pakistan and are known hubs of Sikh militancy.

The *Press Trust of India* (PTI) quoted Amritsar police chief Mohammad Izhar Alam as telling a news conference that a large number of weapons and ammunition had been seized from the 13 Sikhs held in the Sikh holy city.

The Sikhs, nine of whom were identified, confessed to several robberies and murders, he was quoted as saying. Four of those arrested were not named for security reasons, PTI said.

One of the four "hard-core" separatists held in Ferozepore was said to have received training in guerrilla warfare in Pakistan, the news agency said.

India charges that the Sikh separatist campaign in the Punjab is backed and funded by Pakistan. Islamabad denies the allegations.

The Border Security Force [BSF], a paramilitary unit responsible for security on India's borders, said in New Delhi that three suspected Sikh separatists were held in Gurdaspur Saturday in a house-to-house search launched in the district.

Some 1,500 policemen and paramilitary troops backed by sniffer dogs were taking part in the joint operation, a BSF spokesman told *Agence France-Presse* here.

Punjab was reported to be quiet at the weekend after three people were gunned down in the state on Thursday in violence blamed on Sikh separatists. More than 450 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the militant campaign.

Mizoram Chief Resigns; New Coalition Formed

BK161255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] The Mizoram chief minister, Mr Lal Thanhawla, has resigned along with his Council of Ministers to pave the way for the formation of a new ministry.

The new Congress-I-MNF [Mizo National Front] coalition ministry to be headed by the MNF leader, Mr Laldenga, will be sworn in on Thursday [21 August].

Mr Lal Thanhawla submitted his resignation to the lieutenant governor, Mr H.S. Dubey, in Aijal today.

The Congress-I legislature party which met in Aijal last night resolved unanimously to support the coalition ministry.

In the new ministry, Congress-I will have five ministers and the MNF four under the political agreement between the two parties.

FRG's Genscher Calls For Benazir Bhutto's Release

LD151554 Hamburg DPA in German 1523 GMT 15 Aug 86

[Text] Bonn, 15 Aug (DPA) — Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP) has appealed to the Pakistani Government to immediately release opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, who was arrested on Thursday.

The Foreign Office announced on Friday that Genscher had noted reports about the unrest, clashes, and arrests in Pakistan with great regret.

He was hoping that the political debate would take place under generally recognized democratic rules.

A Foreign Office spokesman added in reply to an inquiry that it had been made clear to Pakistani Premier Junejo during his recent visit to the Federal Republic that the Federal Government attaches great importance to the preservation of human rights and respect for democratic principles.

Reportage on Opposition, Police Clashes in Sind, Punjab

Violence in Sind Detailed

BK160639 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Thatta says that on the occasion of Independence Day many people armed with batons and ammunition attacked government buildings in various subdistricts of Thatta District and tried to damage or loot the government's property. They set fire to various government buildings, damaged official records, attacked police stations, and pelted police patrols with stones. They also freed some prisoners under trial. The crowd also set fire to government buses and other vehicles.

Police and law enforcement agencies brought the situation under control. However, tear gas was used at some places to achieve this objective. Police had to resort to firing to disperse the crowd in Thatta. Two policemen were injured, and one person received gunshot wounds.

In (Jamganj) two persons were injured in the police firing. Two other persons were injured when the police resorted to firing to disperse a crowd on the national highway in Gharo Subdistrict trying to set fire to the municipal corporation trawlers. Some persons from the crowd tried to create roadblocks on the national highway, but they were dispersed.

Press notes issued by the commissioners of Hyderabad and Sukkur say some persons who tried to hold public rallies and take out processions at various places of the division in violation of the law were dispersed peacefully. However, the police had to resort to baton charges for this purpose, and some persons were arrested.

There has been no report of any untoward incident from other parts of the country.

Clashes in Karachi, Sind Towns

BK160701 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] In Pakistan, violent clashes continued for the second day yesterday between the police and demonstrators in Karachi and in 24 other towns in Sind Province. Police used tear gas and batons to disperse the marchers. The supporters of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, attacked a jail in Thatta in Sind and freed 24 prisoners. Five persons were injured in the incidents. The demonstrators also set fire to some government offices and blocked traffic, throwing burning tires on roads in Karachi and Thatta.

In Badin, a crowd set fire to a railway station and several bank buildings. The PPP supporters organized a hartal [strike] in the Lyari area of Karachi — a big center — and the locality was the scene of day-long hide-and-seek battle with the police.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the Thursday's police firing in Lahore has risen to five. Thirty-five injured persons have been admitted to hospitals. The leaders of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy [MRD] have decided to hold condolence prayers today to pay homage to those killed in the police firing.

In a television interview recorded before her arrest in Karachi, Miss Benazir Bhutto has claimed that President Zia's government is crumbling in the face of rising public opposition. She said by indulging in opressive tactics the government is showing its weakness.

Sind Situation 'Normal'

BK161758 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] It has officially been stated in Karachi tonight that situation all over Sind remained normal except some minor incidents in (Shabi) village, Ibrahim Chowk, Ghauz Mandi, and Shah Walliula Road in Karachi. People assembled and pelted stones on police and disrupted the traffic by burning tires on the roads. The police resorted to tear gas shells. Some people were injured. In Baghdadi police station area, some miscreants fired on police at Mastan Road as a result of which four policemen received injuries. Police dispersed the crowd and arrested three persons and recovered arms from their possession. In Sadar area, some people brought out a procession on Regal Chowk. They were armed with lethal weapons. However, no untoward incident took place and the processionists dispersed peacefully.

In Hyderabad District, Tando Alla Yar and Adam Road were blocked by cutting trees [words indistinct] by the miscreants. However, law enforcing agencies brought the situation under control and cleared the road. In Nawabshah District, a clash took place between two rival groups in Shahpur-Jahania. People from both sides sustained injuries. Two buses were burnt and (?10) buildings were damaged. In Daddu District, a government bus was burnt by some miscreants at Jamshoro. In Thatta District a crowd of about 500 persons attacked (Bahan) police station in Taluk [Revenue District] Gharo yesterday evening and set it on fire. A subdivisional magistrate, Gharo, accompanied by a police

party intercepted the mob about 12 miles from (Bahan). A mob which was proceeding to [name indistinct] attacked the police party and the police had to resort to firing in self-defense . A couple of persons were injured, 37 persons were arrested.

Violence in Karachi; Army Summoned

BK171608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] In Pakistan, more police forces have been rushed to Karachi with the reports of further clashes between supporters of the opposition parties and police. For the fifth consecutive day today, demonstrators clashed with police in protest against the arrests of Miss Benazir Bhutto and other opposition leaders.

Reports say that hundreds of youths stormed through the city throwing stones at the police, burning tires and setting road blocks. The police responded with shotgun fire and tear gas. A number of people had been admitted to hospital with bullet injuries and other wounds.

The opposition sources say that more than a hundred people have been injured in the clashes since the massive crackdown on opposition leaders on Wednesday [13 August]. The riots and violence have hit at least 40 towns in southern Sind Province.

Meanwhile, troops have been sent to two towns near Karachi to head off violence during tomorrow's planned protest. The opposition parties have called for nation-wide campaign tomorrow to protest against the arrests. Army has already been moved some places in Sind Province to curb the unrest.

Violence, Arrests in Hyderabad

BK180235 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad says that about 200 persons took out a procession at Dargah Road in Hala town at 1100 yesterday. They proceeded toward the national highway, but the police dispersed the procession by using tear gas.

In the meantime, about 200 armed men took up positions on the roofs of houses and began firing at the police, and the crowd attacked and damaged banks and the post office. The furniture and records of the Hala railway station were also damaged.

A total of 19 people have been taken into custody, and the situation is now under control.

Foreign Minister Views SARC Meeting, Afghan Talks

BK151720 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Aug 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that Pakistan has played a significant role in the success of the just-concluded meeting of the ministerial council of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC]. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport on his return home after attending the SARC Ministerial Council meeting in Dhaka and the seventh round of proximity talks on Afghanistan in Geneva. The foreign minister said one of the main decisions of the SARC Ministerial Council was on the establishment of a permanent secretariat of SARC in Katmandu. A working group has been set up to formulate details in this regard. A secretary general will also be nominated before the next SARC summit conference in Bangalore.

About the international economic situation, the foriegn minister said the SARC endorsed the Islamabad declaration proposed by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo calling for concrete steps for holding comprehensive and high-level negotiations to do away with the current negative trends in the world economy.

SARC will coordinate its efforts with those of all internatiional organizations, especially at the upcoming nonaligned summit conference in Harare and the UN General Assembly session, to promote the idea of such negotiations.

Regarding the seventh round of proximity talks on Afghanistan in Geneva, the foreign minister said it is difficult to measure the Geneva talks. In fact, two issues are the center of attention — the procedures for the implementation of the settlement and the timeframe for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. As for the procedures, Pakistan thinks that substantial progress has been made in this regard, leading one to hope that further favorable results are not beyond reach.

As far as the timeframe is concerned, it is a very important issue and Pakistan thinks that it should be decided on the basis of the length of time required for the return of the troops. This task can be accomplished within a few months, but the other side thinks differently, which reflects the major difference between the two sides on this issue.

The foreign minister said Pakistan is in touch with the UN secretary general's personal representative, Cordovez, and he will meet with him during the UN General Assembly session in September.

Mujahidin Blow Up Ammunition Depot at Baghran

BK171534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin blew up an ammunition depot at the Baghran airport. Three helicopters sitting on the runway were also damaged in the blast. This ammunition depot was blown up by time bombs. The time bombs were installed in rocket containers. [as heard]

Baghran is the biggest base the Soviet air command has in Afghanistan.

NEPAL

Foreign Minister's Statement on UK Firing of Gurkhas

BK181241 Hong Kong AFP in English 1220 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] Katmandu, Aug 18 (AFP) — The British Government's sacking of more than 100 Gurkha soldiers did not violate the treaty under which Britain recruits soldiers from Nepal, Foreign Minister Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya said Monday. Mr. Upadhyaya was breaking his silence on the affair for the first time, in response to strong criticism of the sackings by more than 30 members of the national Panchayat (parliament), including a call from one member to scrap the 38-year-old treaty with Britain.

The foreign minister told parliament Monday that Britain had not violated the tripartite treaty allowing Britain and India to recruit Gurkhas form Nepal for their armies, but added that the government had expressed concern to British officials and was seeking more details from the British Embassy here.

Mr. Upadhyaya had summoned Sir Anthony Hurrel last week to seek detailed information on why the 110 soldiers had been dismissed, official sources said. According to the British Defence Ministry, 111 men of the 134-strong seventh Gurkha Rifles based in Hong Kong were dismissed after they refused to give evidence to military police investigating a brawl in Hawaii on May 25 in which two officiers were injured. Official sources in Katmandu, however, maintain that 118 Gurkha soldiers were dismissed, at least 76 of whom fought for Britain in the Falklands war in 1982.

Mr. Upadhyaya said Monday that there was still a case for an appeal against the dismissals. Official sources said eight of the men had already been reinstated following an appeal to the British authorities.

Panchayat member Padma Sunder Lawate asked the Nepalese Government Sunday to urge the British Government to reconsider the soldiers' reinstatement. The British action had hurt Nepalese feelings and damaged the prestige of the country, he said. The sackings ran counter to the tripartite agreement, Mr. Lawate said, charging that "The Nepalese Government's liaison officer in Hong Kong was not even informed" about what he described as "this baseless and unjust action against the loyal Gurkhas." "The mass dismissal of 110 persons in a single batch was not justifiable," he added. Mr. Lawate also charged that an officer unfamiliar with the Gurkhas had been appointed to the contingent, which he said also violated the treaty.

SRI LANKA

Spokesman on Foreign Media Coverage of Refugee Issue

BK161045 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1001 GMT 16 Aug 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 16 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Biased references to Sri Lanka such as "refugee producing country" and "Tamils escaping for their lives" are calculated efforts to create misunderstandings in the world public opinion.

A Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry spokesman told *Lanka Puwath* today that this had been stated in a communication sent from Colombo to the country's diplomatic missions abroad yesterday.

The communication stated an erroneous impression is created that the Tamil community in Sri Lanka is being harassed and prosecuted to the extent that there has to be a large-scale exodus of refugees.

On 12th August Canadian media reported about detection of some life boats with 152 survivors off the coast of Newfoundland who have been rescued by Canadian Coast Guards.

Reports of investigations which are yet to be confirmed by Canadian authorities indicate that these rescued persons [RP's] are Sri Lankans of Tamil origin.

The nature of initial media coverage and media inquiries about the incident pointed to speculations linked with the ethnic issue and designed to create misunderstanding about Sri Lanka's affairs.

Following clarifications could therefore be used by you [diplomatic missions] to dispel such misunderstanding if necessary.

"Biased references to Sri Lanka such as 'a refugee-producing country' and 'Tamils escaping for their lives' are calculated efforts to create further misunderstanding in the world public opinion.

"An erroneous impression is created that the Tamil community in Sri Lanka is being harassed and prosecuted to the extent that there has to be a large-scale exodus of refugees.

"In fact in spite of terrorist activities, some of the Sri Lankan Tamil refugee families who were living in south India have come back to Sri Lanka to settle. During the month of April 1986 at least 362 families — about 1,000 persons — have come back to Mannar District alone. It is a known fact that terrorists dislike the return of refugees to Sri Lanka because the continuance of the refugee problem keeps the terrorism well sustained.

"The majority of the Sri Lanka Tamil asylum seekers in those countries have left Sri Lanka not through the fear of being subject to political victimization by Sri Lankan authorities but merely in search of better economic opportunities. Many of the Western countries are beginning to realise this. News reports indicate that the 152 RP's have started their 'journey' either from a point in India or in Europe. Whatever it may be, it is a clear indication that these 152 persons have been lured to join their 'journey' to Canada not due to any 'continued violence by security forces in the north and east of Sri Lanka' as it has been falsely illeged by interested parties.

"The Sri Lanka Government does not wish to create any problem for other countries. Therefore, if it is established that the 152 RP's are Sri Lankans and if they wish to return to Sri Lanka, they are most welcome to do so. Contrary to the adverse publicity

in the world media about the alleged fears and political victimization of asylum seekers who are returning to Sri Lanka by the Sri Lankan authorities, the Sri Lankan Government assures that all returnee refugees and asylum seekers on their return will be treated without any discrimination or prejudice in case they have not contravened any of our laws. Scores of such Sri Lankans do safely come back to Sri Lanka daily.

"The question of their (RP's) return arises only if it is definitively established that they are Sri Lankans. Sometimes 'refugees' destroy or lose their passports and other documentary evidence about citizenship, in which event the Sri Lankan mission in Canada is to cooperate with the Canadian authorities to establish identity and citizenship of the RP's.

"Sri Lanka's concern about incidents of this nature is that their recurrence and distorted publicity given in the world media to these incidents may adversely affect the ongoing peace efforts to seek a political solution to the ethnic problem."

Talks Continue With TULF on Ethnic Issue

BK161130 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] The second day of discussion between the government and the representatives of the TULF aimed at resolving the present ethnic problem resumed this morning at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] in Colombo.

The government delegation was led by President Jayewardene. Mr A. Amirthalingam led the Tulf delegation.

The secretary to the political parties conference, Felix Dias Abeysinghe, said that today's discussion lasted for about 1½ hours and the talks would be resumed tomorrow morning.

The government delegation comprised Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel; the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali; Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed; Minister for Home Affairs K.W. Devanayagam; and Minister of Education Ranil Wickremasinghe.

Autonomy Legislation Discussed

BK171604 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] Colombo, Aug 17 (AFP) — The government and main Tamil party in Sri Lanka are now considering legislation for constitutional reform meant to end the country's Tamil separatist conflict, informed sources said here Sunday.

After the third consecutive day here of talks between the government and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), there was no official information about the content of the negotiations. But informed sources said the two sides were looking at draft legislation for constitutional changes necessary to introduce provincial autonomy.

The goal of the talks is a government-TULF accord on the establishment of provincial councils that will give Tamils a greater say in running their own affairs. [passage omitted]

President on Plans for 'Some' Autonomy

BK180330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] The talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil United Liberation Front delegation on proposals for resolving the island's ethnic problem have been put off till Thursday [21 August]. The decision was taken as President Jayewardene along with most of his ministers are expected to be in Kandy to attend the annual festival at the tooth temple of Lord Buddha.

The TULF leader, Mr Amirthalingam, said that his delegation will have discussions with the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, and the foreign minister, Mr Hameed, tomorrow and the day after on the devolution of power relating to law and order and the adminstrative structure of the proposed provincial councils.

Addressing a rally in Colombo, President Jayewardene said that his government will go ahead with plans to give some autonomy to Tamil-dominated areas. He said the elected provincial councils will also have some powers.

Chemicals Ship Hit by 'Unidentified Aircraft' 17 Aug

LD181147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] A ship carrying chemicals was attacked by an unidentified aircraft yesterday afternoon. It caught fire when a missile hit its engine room near the coast of the UAE, off Sharjah.

AFP, quoting Lloyds Insurance Company, reported that the 10,000 ton Weelek 3 was flying the Panamanian flag and moving in the southern Persian Gulf when she was attacked.

This report indicates that Egyptian agencies received SOS messages from the ship but these agencies have not made any references to its load of chemicals.

11 Killed, 100 Injured in Qom Bombing 16 Aug

LD161115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] In another crime, U.S. agents martyred or wounded a number of our innocent compatriots. According to a Central News Unit report, at about 0930 hours this morning, a bomb planted in a Zhian automobile [Citroen model] parked near the entrance gate to the Holy Shrine of the holy (Ma'sumah) — may peace be upon her! — on Muzeh Street exploded. Eleven innocent people and pilgrims to the holy shrine of Ma'sumah, including several women and children, were martyred, and another 100 were wounded. As a result of this bestial act, more than 10 shops, hotels, and guest houses, as well as the mirrors inside the Tabataba'i Mosque inside the shrine were damaged, and 5 automobiles were smashed.

These desperate acts are taking place at a time when our country's martyr-nurturing revolutionary people are daily going to the battlefront of good against evil, a situation that is acquiring ever greater importance.

Khomeyni Marks Festival by Meeting Martyrs' Families

LD161137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] On the occasion of the festive occasion of 'Id al-Adha, the families of martyrs; POW'S; those missing from the provincial town of Shahr-e Kord from Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari Province, and also from the town of Eyvan-e Gharb and the Arab Kuh District; and a group of families of martyrs from Tehran and from Tehran Friday prayers Headquarters met Imam Khomeyni in Hoseyniyeh-ye Jamaran religious center this morning.

During the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavasoli began by speaking about the festive occasion of 'Id al-Adha, extolling the selflessness, sacrifice, and patience of the families of the martyrs and conveying to them the expressions of congratulations, sympathy, and gratitude of his holiness the imam.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the imam of the Islamic nation responded to the sentiments expressed by those present.

President Khamene'i Delivers 'Id al-Adha Sermon

LD161436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 86

['Id al-Adha sermon given by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 16 August — recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on Koranic recitations and significance of festival] Today, at a time when the Muslim nations in the vast Hajj pilgrimage forum are admitting God's oneness in words and deeds; when they are expurgating from their midst the idols of polytheism, blasphemy, whims, and carnal desires through the ceremony of casting stones [in Mecca] and are sacrificing along God's path; and when the Hajj pilgrimage and other assorted rites and the moral and spiritual ceremonies are getting closer to God and aiming at further embodying Islam in their minds, souls, and actions, the foes of Islam throughout the Islamic world have embarked on and are engaged in a dangerous plot against the entire Muslim community. This plot, of course, is nothing new, but since the time when the Islamic Republic's system brought the true rousing nature of Islam to the eyes of world Muslims in concrete form, the plotters, in panic, disarray, and indecent haste have attempted to imposed this plot on the Islamic world.

Of course, their task has become very difficult because the model set by the Islamic Republic has made nations wary. However, the enemies of Islam will carry out their filthy objectives with all their strength until they sense that it is useless — when they sense defeat. It seems that the enemies of Islam throughout the world have not yet experienced this feeling at close quarters, although the vitality of the nation is manifest everywhere.

This plot consists in becoming more subservient to Israeli-Islamic communities from the political, economic, and military standpoints to world arrogance, particularly in our region. The plot of establishing relations with Israel, recognizing Israel, accepting Israel as a reality; the plot of covert relations initially and then overt relations between the Zionists and certain Islamic governments — all these are the components of that huge plot, that deep-rooted and extremely dangerous plot against the Islamic world.

When you suddenly see a reactionary leader who is subservient to the United States, although he is an Arab, openly daring to meet the Zionist authorities without feeling ashamed when faced with the Islamic nation and all those martyres who have fallen at the hands of Zionism, and all the blood that has been spilled, and all those families who have been destroyed, this is nothing fortuitous, this is nothing impulsive, this is the outcome of lengthy efforts which are now becoming manifest. And they are still striving toward this end!

If the attempts by the power of arrogance and world-devouring United States in this region were not carried out so intensively, then the entire Islamic world would have explicitly and openly expelled Hassan the Moroccan from the circle of Islam and from the circle of all the forums attended by Muslims! [Chants of "Allah Akbar, Khomeyni leader," "Death to arrogance," "Death to Israel," "Death to the United States"]

This is an all-round political attempt by the United States, using its influence on certain governments and certain leaders and heads of countries who are dependant on the United States, to bolster Israel as far as possible.

Here, I would like to say two things: The first is a warning to those countries who are not entirely in the clutches of the United States but are influenced by U.S. policies. These people should realize that the United States today has the utmost need of Israeli links with the countries all round the Middle East and Africa. In order to continue its existence Israel needs to establish relations with the Islamic countries, the Arab countries, and the African countries. They are doing their utmost to build up such relations. In Africa today Israel is engaged in contacting a number of African countries — Muslim or otherwise. It is endeavoring to establish relations because it has dire need of these links.

Israel is like a sore thumb, like a rootless tree which has been planted and maintained in this region by U.S. pressure and force. To begin with, a number of other powers collectively planted it and after many long years the United States is now attempting to maintain it by force, though it has not put down any roots in the region. A tree which has not grown roots can always be pulled out and destroyed. Therefore, it wants to create roots, build up relations, and manifest its existence as a reality.

Those countries that know how unloyal the Americans are, how indifferent Americans are to the interests of nations, those countries that can stand on their own two feet and rely on their own people should not capitulate to this global political blackmail. Israel is superfluous and has been brought about superfluously; and so long as it remains superfluous it will eventually, like everything that is superfluous, be destroyed and extruded from this region. [Chants] Let them not capitulate to the propaganda that because Israel now exists, it is better for governments — Asian, African, and those in the Middle East — to accept it one way or another. Israel is superfluous.

The second item is that our logic regarding Israel and the aim which we have expressed regarding the Zionists is not an aim which will become outdated and moribund with the passage of time. It is a reality. In connection with the Zionists, we believe that these people are the usurpers of a country and a usurper is a usurper; even after a 100 years, a usurper is still a usurper is still a usurper. Just because they have usurped a country for the past 30 or 40 years and treated its people with the utmost barbarity and harshness does not give them any rights; 30 or 40 years' time is nothing. Even if they remain there for 100 years, a usurper is a usurper.

The issue does not concern Jews as such; it is an issue of Zionism. There may be many Jews hostile to the Zionists. There may be many Jews who have made revelations about the Zionists. Zionism is an extremely short-sighted racist Judaism. Before Zionism came to Palestine in the form the state of Israel, Jews, Muslims, and Christians used to live side by side. None of the nationalities living in Palestine said that the others should get out to leave the land just for them. The Palestinian Muslims never told the Jews or Christians they should get out. The same applies to the Christians with regard to the Jews or the Muslims. The same applies to the Jews with regard to the Muslims or the Christians.

Because of the historic tradition of prophets, Palestine is holy to Muslims, Jews, and Christians. All three respect it. The issue there concerns the Zionists; that is to say, it concerns a political, racist, dependent, colonialist, evil party that has usurped a land to set up a Jewish state. From the outset it has concentrated its pressure on the Muslims. This continues to this day, and the territory they have seized is not enough for them. They have other ambitions; they want more territory. If the weakness, helplessness, and abjectness of Arab leaders continues,other territories may be wrested from Islam.

The issue concerns the fact that a usurping government has been created there. Our objective, our slogan with regard to Israel is realistic. We do not say that all Jews should be thrown into the sea; we say that the Zionist government should be eliminated root and branch and that all the Palestinians, be they Muslims, Christians, or Jews, should live together as brothers. [Chants of "God is great" and other indistinct slogans] The struggle against the Zionist regime is a religious obligation, a duty. The whole Islamic world should realize this. All Islamic governments are equally dutybound in this matter. Any government failing to fulfill this duty has committed a historic treason, something which will be recorded in history. On the day when, God willing, the people of Palestine are able to regain their land, history will reckon with the leaders of those countries, governments, and states who so patently failed in their duty regarding that incontrovertible right.

O God, for the sake of Muhammad and his scion help us succeed in fulfilling this duty.

Musavi Views Oil Minister's Upcoming Trip to USSR

LD171557 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 86

[Text] In an interview reported by the Central News Unit, Prime Minister Musavi has commented on overpricing and the government's plans for distribution of goods. Musavi said:

At present, the Mobilization Headquarters is constantly working to maintain a low price for the goods that people need and to set price for essential goods. However, we are facing problems because of inadequacies in laws. About 2 years ago we submitted a bill on distribution of goods to the Majlis that was subsequently shelved. The bill on punitive measures for hoarders had run up against obstacles in the Majlis; we hope it will soon be ratified. All in all, while government is trying its best, it does not have the necessary legal means at its disposal to achieve more. We hope that this problem will be solved with the help of the Majlis and the Council of Guardians.

In connection with the bill increasing the punishments for hoarders and profiteers that was recently approved by the Majlis, the prime minister said: We believe that the legislative branch should put more effective legal means at the disposal of the government so that the government can be more decisive in dealing with profiteers and those who only think of accumulating more wealth without heeding the revolutionary situation of our regime, those who have no regard for the blood of our martyrs, and those who are only concerned with lining their pockets. In

this way the government will be able to deal with these people in a revolutionary manner. In this regard, we expect stronger and more comprehevsive laws to be put at the disposal of the government. The revolutionary spirit of the Majlis will achieve this, God willing.

In connection with the government's plans for the successful implementation of the Iranian proposals which were approved by OPEC, the prime minister said: The government now has a program of extensive political activity for this. Our oil minister will travel to the USSR tomorrow in order to hold talks on this issue and on our relations with the USSR as regards oil, gas, and so forth. The oil minister will also take other trips to oil-producing countries, both OPEC and non-OPEC states, in Africa and Asia. We hope that through our contracts and talks with OPEC oil ministers, the work done within OPEC will be more successful.

Oil Minister Departs for Moscow

LD181025 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — The Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, heading a delegation of officials from Oil Ministry and National Iranian Gas Company, left Tehran for Moscow Monday morning. According to the ministry, the Iranian oil minister will negotiate with Soviet officials on mutual cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas.

Tehran Comments on Visit

LD181251 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Aug 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Oil Minister Aqazadeh left for Moscow this morning with a delegation from his ministry for talks with Soviet officials aimed at coordination and cooperation in the field of oil and gas. The minister's main objective during this trip is to implement the latest agreement reached by OPEC, that is, the plan proposed by Iran. Prime Minister Musavi pointed out yesterday, following a Cabinet meeting, that an extensive diplomatic movement pertaining to the latest decision taken by OPEC has already been started by our country's officials.

Referring to the oil minister's visit to the USSR, which is to be followed by visits to certain OPEC members in Africa in order to bring about the necessary coordination, the prime minister said: During his visit to the USSR the oil minister will be holding talks with that country's officials on joint cooperation in gas and oil. Considering that the Soviet Union is a major exporter of crude oil, that country's coordination in line with the OPEC decision is considered to be a positive step as far as the Islamic Republic is considered.

Another issue to be discussed by the two sides is the possibility of resuming gas exports to the USSR. The export of Iranian gas to the Soviet Union was stopped in March 1979 after Iran's demand to raise the price of gas commensurate with oil prices was turned down by the USSR.

All in all, the visit to the USSR by Oil Minister Aqazadeh is considered to be significant in view of the launching of yet another stage of diplomatic movement by our country aimed at implementing the recent OPEC decision, as well as the possibility of achieving certain agreements in the field of oil and gas between the Islamic Republic and the USSR.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,564

LD151552 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 15 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses when Iranian long-range artillery pounded enemy economic centers, industrial installations, a naval base, Al-Harithah power station, Al-Jabila airport and a joint operational headquarters in Basra region Thursday, said a military communique here Friday.

Joint staff communique number 2564 said that several Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and five enemy gun emplacements together with five vehicles were destroyed in the western border fronts as a result of artillery duels with Iranian forces Thursday.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions over the same period setting fire to parts of enemy positions.

The communique said that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi armoured units in Yebis, southern fronts, suppressed their operations and silenced their fire. In Sumar, reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked. Movements of enemy motorized columns as well as enemy engineering operations were also halted in Chazzabeh, Qasr-e Shirin, Mehran and Kani-Sheikh operational theaters.

Iran's navy intercepted and inspected a cargo ship sailing under foreign flag in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday but allowed the ship to continue voyage after being satisfied that it was not carrying any goods for Iraq, the communique said. It also said that Iranian port city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was under enemy long-range artillery shelling Thursday.

36 Iraqis Killed

LD161434 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 16, IRNA — Some 13 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when their positions were heavily shelled by Iranian combatants here on Friday and Saturday. The Muslim combatants also destroyed seven single and group bunkers and one observation post of Iraqi forces and set fire to a munitions dump.

Meanwhile at least 23 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five bunkers and one munitions dump of theirs destroyed in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts Thursday when they were shelled by Iranian forces. Over the same period, five vehicles carrying Iraqi personnel and one enemy munitions dump were hit and blasted by Iranian forces in Sumar, western fronts.

Iraqi Mirage Downed

LD161538 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 16, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane (Mirage F-1) was downed by Iranian anti-aircraft near Dezful (Khuzestan Province) at noon Saturday. The plane crashed near an asphalt road leading to the city of Andimeshk, Khuzestan Province. Part of its fuselage became embedded in soft soil of the road.

The invading Mirage had bombarded an industrial plant in the province as a result of which four of the plant's staff were martyred and four persons wounded. Some groups have been dispatched to the scene to dig out the war plane. The pilot is presumed to have died in the crash.

Communique No 2,565

LD161658 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] Tehran, Aug 16, IRNA — Two Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire over the city of Dezful (Khuzestan Province) at 1207 hours local time (0837 GMT) Saturday.

The wreckage of one of the two was found in the area while the second is being searched for, according to a military communique released here Saturday.

Communique number 2,565 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that six foreign cargo ships and tankers were intercepted and inspected by the Iranian navy, but were allowed to continue voyage since they had no Iraqi-bound war-related cargo.

In western fronts, Iranian shelling of Iraqi positions killed or wounded some enemy troops and destroyed three group bunkers, a munitions depot as well as an observation post of theirs, said the communique.

Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts were shelled on Friday and enemy fire silenced. Their engineering activities were also disrupted, the communique said. Parts of Iraqi positions and supply columns in the same area were set ablaze and two of their heavy vehicles destroyed.

The communique said that exchange of fire raged on in southern fronts being somewhat more intense in Talaiyeh and Zayd operational theaters Friday. In Yebis operational region the Iranian Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi tanks halting their movement and inflicting damage and casualties on enemy troops.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi fortifications and supply routes, killing and wounding some enemy soldiers and demolishing five group and individual bunkers as well as observation posts, a munitions depot and four vehicles of theirs, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Positions on Border Shelled

LD161920 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 16 Aug 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 16, IRNA — Iranian shelling of Iraqi positions in Sumar operational theater destroyed five enemy troops transport vehicles carrying soldiers and set ablaze an enemy munitions depot on Friday.

In Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts the Iranian Muslim combatants maintained the upper hand in exchange of artillery fire on Friday and Saturday killing or wounding some 23 Iraqi soldiers, setting afire a munitions depot and five observation bunkers.

Meanwhile reports from Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, said that some 15 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when their fortifications and positions were shelled on the Western Arvand River banks over Friday and Saturday. Four group bunkers, two observation posts as well as two vehicles of the enemy were also destroyed.

Over the said period, Iranian fire rained on the military road of Abu al-Khasib-Basra preventing movements of Iraqi armoured columns and inflicting damage on the enemy forces.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Province, were hit by Iraqi long-range artillery fire as a result of which a school as well as some residential and trade units were damaged in Abadan.

Some sites in Khorramshahr were also damaged.